

# The Reformer

Lawyersville and Sharon Reformed Churches 192

**Mission Statement:** As disciples of Christ, we are empowered by the Holy Spirit to join together to worship God, to study his Word, and use our gifts to extend God's grace and love to others.

March 2018

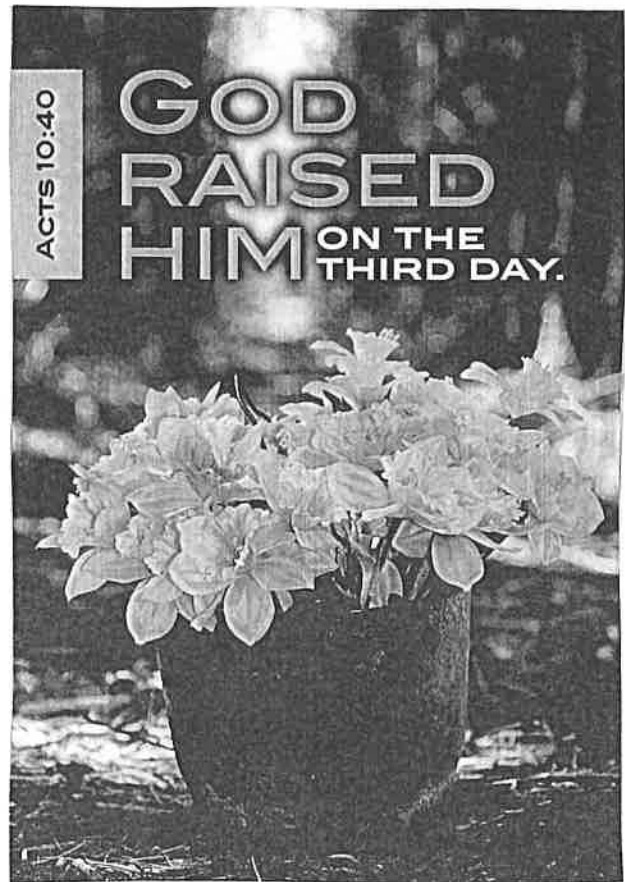
## What's Inside:

Interim Pastor's Page  
Church Review  
Calendar of Events  
Children's Fun Page  
Birthdays-Anniversaries

**LRC - Church Service**  
**9:00 A.M.**

**SRC - Church Service**  
**11:00 A.M.**  
**Sunday School**  
**9:30 A.M.**

**Rev. Paul Ferenczy**



## **The Death of a Warrior for God**

by the Interim Pastor

Today I heard the news of the death of Billy Graham. I do not use the customary titles (Rev. or Pastor) before his name out of respect for his wishes. He was not the kind of person who wanted to be singled out with titles or honors. When I heard the news of his passing, I wondered how many lives he touched and how many people there are in this country who are Christians today because of Billy Graham's preaching.

I was in seminary when Graham was making his mark upon the American public and we students often engaged in conversations that centered around our approval or criticisms of what he was doing and particularly the style of his ministry. Being born and raised in the more traditional Reformed faith that frowned upon altar calls, I must confess that I had a difficult time accepting the way Graham conducted his services of Worship. He did, however, have a profound effect on many who were or eventually became members of the Reformed Church in America.

I became aware as a student pastor and then as an ordained minister in the RCA the appeal and activities of Graham as they came up in conversations among members of the congregations where I served. Bus trips were organized in communities and trips to hear Graham preach were made available to people of all faiths. When people came back from such trips, I noticed a change in their faith. They had grown. Those who attended every now and then, became faithful. Some who never attended, now did. Billy Graham never promoted any one denomination over another. He just wanted his hearers to accept Jesus Christ as their Savior and then to return to whatever church they already attended or chose to attend and spread the good news and their enthusiasm.

Graham did make some bad political choices which he admitted and vowed never to do again. He asked his listeners to forgive him. I admired him for that. He focused his ministry on the message of salvation through Jesus. Over the years, whatever discomfort I had with his style of preaching faded away as I realized those were my problems as I continued to adjust to a less traditional ministry and worship.

I listened to and read many of Graham's sermons and I they spoke to me in times when I needed to hear them. He believed himself to be a Warrior for God, sent to deliver the gospel message in particular to America. He was certainly faithful to his call. Again, I wonder how many thousands of hearts he touched and how many souls he turned to God.

I would not be surprised if you, your parents or grand parents were also touched in some way by Graham's ministry. I will never be able to sing "Just As I Am" without thinking of Billy Graham and the countless numbers of people coming down the aisles of the stadiums where he preached, to accept Jesus as their Savior. Thank you, Lord, for Billy Graham's life and ministry.

*"Just as I am without one plea, but that thy blood was shed for me, and that thou bidd'st me come to thee. O Lamb of God, I come, I come!"*



Prayer Requests

Church

Tina Ward/back to work  
 Jean Wormuth/home bound  
 Jan Liberti/new chemo treatments  
 Joe King/nursing home

Family/Loved Ones

Dan Palmer/lumphoma treatments  
 Jill Nirschl/clots in the lung  
 Agnes Bautochka/kidney issues  
 Margaret Springstead/health issues  
 Marjorie Clem/back surgery  
 Nadine/acute care unit  
 Joe Garufi/back to work  
 Hal Buddle/long term health issues  
 Gary Bishop/MS  
 Thelma Turner/Palliative Care

Those homebound/in nursing homes:

Helen Holmes (LRC)  
 153 Hansen Rd.  
 Cherry Valley, NY 13320

Muriel Holmes (LRC)  
 St. Johnsville Nursing Home  
 7 Timmerman Ave.  
 St. Johnsville, NY 13452

Josephine King (SRC)  
 c/o Edward Wilkinson Facility  
 4988 St. Hwy. 30  
 Amsterdam, N.Y. 12010

Richard Nirschl (SRC)  
 St. Johnsville Nursing Home  
 7 Timmerman Ave.  
 St. Johnsville, NY 13452

Community

For care givers helping people in need

All Teachers and students

**Mass shootings against our innocent children**

Family situations impacting students' performances in school

Children and parents relocate and adjust to new surroundings

Grand-parents serving as guardians for their grand-children

All families impacted by alcoholism and/or substance abuse

Increased heroin addiction in our county

All families and marriages in crisis

All children suffering from physical, emotional and/or sexual abuse and captivity

All God's children impacted by hunger and food insecurity

All soldiers (esp. those deployed) and their families

Farmers struggling with weather issues

Nation and World

Crisis of refugees and migrants

Extremists' intolerance and violence

Persecuted Christians

The global economy

All unrest in God's world

**Local, state national and world leaders**

Peacemaker groups

**Please let me know of any updates or additions so we can direct our prayers to them.**

### **Food donations**

Thank you to all who contribute donations of Food for the Food Pantry, held at the Baptist Church. We know, due to the economy, that there is an increase in requests. Some who have donated in the past find themselves in need of help. Please continue to give as you are able. Thank you for participating in this ministry of care. **First Sunday of each month.**



Office Phone #: 234-2387

Web Site: [lrcandsrc.org](http://lrcandsrc.org)



**Editor: Lola Fletcher, 756 Loonenbergh TPK., Sharon Springs, NY 13459.**

**Phone: 518-234-2283**

**E-mail [lola756@wildblue.net](mailto:lola756@wildblue.net)**

**Deadline: March 21st** Thanks to all for your information and contributions.

### **MEMO BOARD**

#### **March**

**4,11,18,25**

**11  
15  
29  
30**

**LRC Worship Service @ 9:00 A.M.**

**SRC Sunday School @ 9:30 A.M.**

**SRC Worship Service @ 11:00 A.M.**

**Day Light Savings Time Begins**

**LRC Consistory @ 5:15 P.M.**

**Maundy Thursday Service @ LRC @ 7:00 P.M.**

**Good Friday Service @ SRC @ 7:00 P.M.**

**Reminder—Orders for the memorial patio blocks for the Eagle Scout project in the park are due by March 15th. Send request form and check for \$100 for each block to Lawyersville Reformed Church, Box 421, Cobleskill, N.Y. 12043. Any questions please speak to a consistory member. Thank You**

**LRC -Would you like to donate items to use for coffee hour and other events? Items we could use are coffee, half & half, pastries, paper towels and bathroom paper. Please leave items on kitchen counter. See Lisa Boss if you would like to help at coffee hour sometime?**

**LRC—Looking for people to bring plants for Easter Sunday**

**LRC—Special thanks to the Stanton girls for making bread for communion on February 18th. If anyone would like to make bread for a future communion Sunday please speak with Chris Hibbard.**

**Mondays – Fridays 6:00 to 6:45 a.m. morning exercise group. SRC Hall.**

**All welcome – easily modified movements to meet your specific needs.**

**Contact Laura with any questions – 518-705-0860**



# March

BIRTHDAYS



# March

ANNIVERSARIES

## MARCH

- 12 Antoinette Clegg
- 18 Janice Van Aller
- 21 Jill Cullen
- 22 Holden Davenport

## MARCH

- 18 Karl & Rena Copper



"I'm playing a crowd member in the Passion Play. I was going to play Pilate 'til I found out I'd have to wash my hands."



**HE  
WAS THERE  
ALL  
THE TIME**

### Set free

"Christ's death becomes the rod, the cudgel that breaks the necks of the fears that are the enemies of my peace; his Word becomes the staff by which he holds on to me and rescues me from danger."

—Sinclair B. Ferguson, *Deserted By God?*

## Spoiler alert

In these days of DVRs and streaming programming, it's common courtesy to warn people before discussing a show's plot or ending. How frustrating to inadvertently hear how a much-anticipated drama concludes!

Knowing how everything ends is a blessing for Christians, however. Jesus' victory over death gives us hope and confidence for this life — and for the life to come.

"The church does not pretend ... that it does not know what will happen with the crucified Jesus," writes Thomas Hopko in *The Orthodox Faith*. "It does not sorrow and mourn over the Lord as if the church itself were not the very creation which has been produced from his wounded side and from the depths of his tomb. All through [Holy Week] services, the victory of Christ is contemplated and the resurrection is proclaimed."

Indeed, Jesus' followers know how his story — and therefore *our* story — ends: in Easter life!

## Dispelling the darkness

On Good Friday, many churches hold a Tenebrae worship service. Tenebrae (Latin for "darkness" or "shadows") is an ancient Christian tradition that re-creates the emotions of Jesus' Passion and death. The sanctuary gradually grows darker. A strepitus (Latin for "loud noise") may signify the closing of Jesus' tomb. As the service concludes, a Christ candle stands alone on the altar, reminding worshippers that victory is coming on Easter morning.

When Scottish missionary Peter Milne died in 1924, the thankful people he'd served in the South Pacific inscribed this message on his headstone: "When he came, there was no light; when he died, there was no darkness."

Death's darkness couldn't conquer Jesus, the light of the world, so it does not conquer us. "The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it" (John 1:5, ESV).

## Making the common sacred

First Corinthians 10:31 (ESV) reminds us, "Whether you eat or drink, or whatever you do, do all to the glory of God." Author E.M. Bounds describes this mind-set as a "spirit of devotion" that "puts God in all things ... not merely in our praying and churchgoing."

He writes: "The spirit of devotion makes the common things of earth sacred and the little things great. With this spirit of devotion, we go to business on Monday directed by the very same influence, and inspired by the same influences, by which we went to church on Sunday. The spirit of devotion makes a Sabbath out of Saturday and transforms the shop and the office into a temple of God."

# Puzzle!

Search for these words that are all associated with the Lenten journey.

crown donkey hosanna penance Pilate sins  
colt crucifixion forsaken kiss prayer suffer  
confess death Gethsemane lots repent thorns  
cross denial Golgotha palms silver vigil

E N A M E S H T E G R L W Y  
C L E U X B M T H B U C W B  
N R I K Y P A T E T I Y X Y  
A V J G A L B R E Y A R P B  
N G N L I S N L A I N E D X  
E W M P R V R D H B N R D F  
P S O G O L G O T H A B S C  
D L N R O C O N F E S S I K  
O T H T C P E K W U O U N D  
M N S H N P W E D R H F S K  
U N F O E T K Y C S G F O E  
H E C R E V L I S W Q E C M  
H V H N C X S O C C J R L O  
F Q E S U D S H C A A Y M C  
C R U C I F I X I O N S R V

## "Wind of God"

Tiny breeze or mighty wind,  
swirling round as God commands.  
Hats go flying. Branches bend.  
Little seeds spread through the lands.

God Almighty makes the wind;  
great big gusts can shape the sands.  
Awesome is the power of God,  
when even wind obeys his plans.

—MaryAnn Sundby



# Kid's Page

## FRUIT LADYBUGS

Get creative in the kitchen with this sweet springtime snack.

### What you need:

- Strawberries (washed)
- Knife
- Plate or wax paper
- ½ cup melted chocolate chips
- Zippered baggie
- Scissors
- Blueberries (washed)
- Adult help



### What you do:

1. De-stem the strawberries. Cut in half and then cut a small V atop each half to make the ladybug body. Set them on a plate or wax paper.
2. Place the melted chocolate in a baggie and cut off the tip of a bottom corner.
3. Pipe a dividing line and "spots" on each strawberry. Also use the chocolate to attach a blueberry "head" by the V shape.
4. Pipe chocolate antennas and legs onto ladybugs.
5. Let harden. Enjoy!



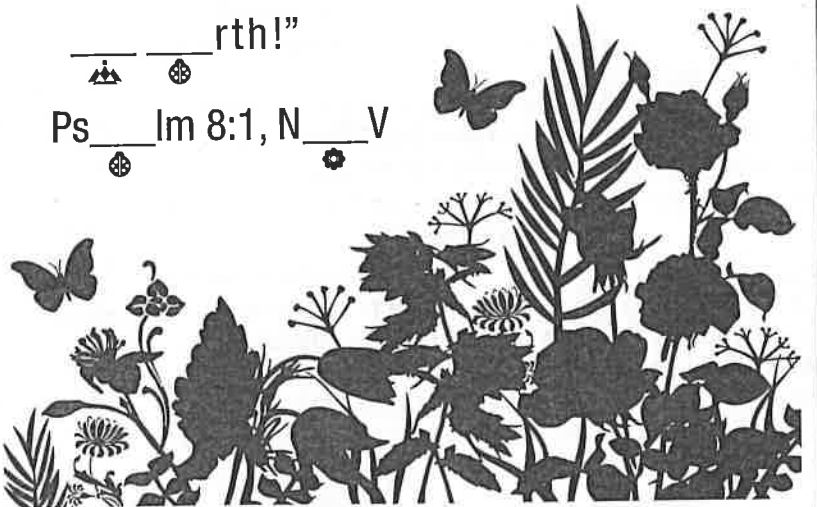
## Spring's Beauty

During springtime, the beauty of God's creation emerges in many ways.

Directions: Use the vowel code below to complete Psalm 8:1, NIV.

A= E= I= O= U=

"L\_\_RD, \_\_r L\_\_rd, h\_\_w  
 m\_\_j\_\_st\_\_c \_\_s y\_\_r  
 n\_\_m\_\_n \_\_ll th\_\_  
 \_\_rth!"  
 Ps\_\_lm 8:1, N\_\_V



Answer: "LORD, our Lord, how majestic is your name in all the earth!"  
 NIV  
 Psalm 8:1, NIV